

California Transportation Conformity Working Group

Thursday, February 2, 2006

10:30 am - 3:30 pm

CalEPA/California Air Resources Board Office
1001 I Street, Training Rooms A/B (ground floor)
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING NOTES

10:30 Welcome; introductions; housekeeping; agenda review

See end of this document for attendance list.

(FHWA) add: Guidance – reminders for 06 FTIP

(SJCOG) add discussion of “Shingle Springs” tribal casino-related interchange project; discussed immediately: SACOG: listed as part of “IRR TIP”; ROP SIP emission budgets include emissions from the Shingle Springs project. El Dorado Co. APCD has to approve ROP SIP – if they don’t it could stop process of approving MTP (RTP) for conformity. [Ed. Note: by the end of February all Sacramento-area APCDs/AQMDs approved the ROP SIP. It was submitted to EPA by ARB, and emission budgets were found adequate effective March 31, 2006.]

10:40 Public Comment on matters not otherwise on the agenda

(none)

10:50 FHWA Updates

- TEA-21 Reauthorization – Implementation Update
 - Use of 180-day statute of limitations for NEPA and other actions
Applies only to NEPA actions. Requires Federal Register notice. Does not apply to conformity actions including project-level conformity determinations.
 - Discussion of transition to planning/conformity 4-year cycles
(handouts: chart, FHWA website guides)
4-yr cycle for conformity effective immediately. Does not require SAFETEA-LU-compliant RTP first. But there are some other considerations. All new SAFETEA-LU Planning (RTP and TIP) provisions must be implemented by 7/1/07. Items to address...chart assumes existing RTPs go to 4yr immediately; but if plan isn’t compliant by 7/07 the area locks down for amendments/new projects until compliant RTP/TIP done (including conformity determination). Focus on TIP do far due to more immediate timeframe, but RTP needs more work.
Question: SCAG wants to go April 08 (4 years) for RTP to use new emission budgets due in 07. Inability to amend after July 1, 2007 a problem. Proposed Rule not out yet. Confirm no amendments? FHWA: yes.
Conflict in cycle of RTPs and emission budgets? Yes. Recommended

approach: accelerate RTP schedule to go with TIP update by 7/1/07 – avoid lockdown. Still needs discussion to make it work.

Guidance for what is a SFTLU-compliant TIP? None yet; up to MPOs & consultation until/unless guidance & rules come out. “Good Faith Effort” gap analysis needed for now.

- Guidance released
 - Interim Guidance/SAFETEA-LU-Conformity: still pending, *[Ed. Note: was released a few days later on FHWA web site.]*
 - Guidance (checklist – in handouts) for use of previous emission analyses – any questions? If none here or at CFPG it will be final.
 - Please check Board resolutions for amendments – don’t say it’s a new conformity analysis if you’re using a previous one, or that it’s no impact. Say that you’re using a previous emission analysis. Use the checklist to structure the discussion.
Watch for further guidance. See:
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/reference.htm>
 - 06 TIP reminders (added): Federal Register publication today lists web site @FHWA for SAFETEA-LU updates. Will probably just provide web references rather than documents in the future.
 - Question/Suggestion re. amendments: consider changing procedures for determining when an amendment is “minor” to use % of project value rather than \$\$; CT uses %, FHWA/FTA use \$\$ amounts. *No decision at this point.*
 - Question about CMAQ Guidance/Handbook from FHWA. *In progress but not ready for release yet.*
- PM2.5 - Hot Spot Analysis (with EPA)
 - Background: not due out until 3/31; effective 4/5. *FHWA and EPA are nervous. Had call with AASHTO/EPA/FHWA. Can’t get it out much earlier; has to go to OMB first. Will have guidance for doing analyses in addition to Rule. WILL NOT REQUIRE PM HOT SPOT ANALYSIS FOR ALL NON-EXEMPT PROJECTS (as current Conformity Rule requires). Will use qualitative analysis. Must add to any project not Ready to List.*
 - Summary of guidance to date
 - Types of projects affected/FHWA advice
- STEVE IN CLOSING: reminders/06 FTIP:
 - Conformity project list must include: *all funded projects in the triennial element PLUS projects in action/baseline RTP alternatives with some work in the TIP period; PLUS projects needing NEPA in TIP period.*
 - Interagency Consultation: *most areas have been doing it during the public comment period for the conformity analysis. If problems arise, must restart public comment; FHWA prefers doing consultation before the comment period to prevent restarts.*

- Latest Planning Assumption, start date, appropriate analysis years, emission tests, review exempt project list; TCMs to track & which SIP they come from: **FINALIZE CONSULTATION BEFORE PUBLIC COMMENT.**
- Financial constraint tables: *cover entire program (including lump sum/exempt projects), not just listed projects.*
- EMFAC inputs; timeline analysis (SIPs, due dates, etc.): *if new regional emission analysis is needed for the TIP, re-determine RTP conformity also based on revised analysis and project lists. RTP amendment may be needed depending on the character of the changes.*
- **ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL:** *send emails w/status & electronic version of conformity analysis if possible.*

11:20 US EPA Updates

- Recent EPA SIP Actions (emission budget adequacy, approvals, sanctions clocks, etc.)
 - CO Maintenance SIP approval – not including South Coast ... in Federal Register 11/30/05. No negative comments on the Direct Final Rule received, so emission budgets are effective 1/30/06. **USE THESE BUDGETS NOW.**
- Hot/Upcoming Conformity/Transportation issues
 - covered PM2.5 already; it's the biggest news right now
 - SAFETEA-LU implementation is next.
 - ***TCM Substitution per SAFETEA-LU preempts any existing SIP TCM substitution provisions.***
- 8 hr ozone
 - Sacramento ROP SIP status: did budget adequacy process based on parallel processing request. No comments by 1/30/06, so SIP will go to Federal Register on schedule. Should let Sacramento go forward soon. ARB: submittal to EPA should be ready this week.
 - Phase 2 Implementation Rule: *(EPA) With the issuance of Phase 2 of the 8-hr ozone implementation rule, EPA has completed the implementation rulemaking proposed in June 2003. Phase 1 dealt mainly with nonattainment area classifications (Basic, Marginal, Moderate, Serious, Severe and Extreme), and was issued at the time the areas were designated as nonattainment, effective June 15, 2004. Phase 2 was published November 29, 2005 (70 FR 71611-71705), and addresses many SIP requirements, such as RACM/RACT, emissions inventories and monitoring. Assuming attainment demonstration SIPs and Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) SIPs are submitted on time, by June 15, 2007, and found to be adequate 90 days later, areas would have adequate 8-hr ozone budgets by September 15, 2007, with the exception of Sacramento, which we expect to have adequate budgets earlier.*
 - SIP Timeline ... handout

- PM2.5 - SIP and other Implementation issues
 - Issues: *generally must meet std by 2010, SIPs due 2008. Can propose up to 5 yr extension similar to PM10 provisions. All the usual SIP requirements. Fact sheet ... overview ... EPA proposing some NSR changes. Eleanor Kaplan lead.*
- Particulate Matter Standards Proposal and Request for Comment
 - NEW STANDARDS: *Published 1/2006. Has PM2.5 (Fine PM), PM10-PM2.5 (Coarse PM) stds. New PM2.5 designations in 2010 & SIPs in 2013. New PM Coarse designations 2013 & SIPs 2016. Includes partial PM10 revocation. ARB has commented.*

11:45 Lunch Break

1:15 ARB Updates

- EMFAC update
 - Activity estimates to be finalized in July-Sept06: ARB will ask MPOs for latest activity estimates by late March. Even non-MPO RTPAs should submit data if available for EMFAC. "By March" means whatever's on hand; needed to make a November EMFAC release. No changes in format from previous requests.
 - Regional SIP development updates: accelerating process in South; ARB/South Coast sharing inventory data.
 - Latest Planning Assumptions letter: ARB to EPA/FHWA. Provides schedule for EMFAC & fleet information updates. Letter is a result of many months of discussion & agreement on a process for new EMFAC w/minimal conformity disruption.
 - ARB in the letter commits to release a revised EMFAC in 11/06 to public; will have updated info.
 - UPON RELEASE it is expected to be "Latest Planning Assumptions" with a 6-mo transition period for new conformity analyses. MPOs will have a choice of EMFAC 2002 or the new version during that period.
 - Decision to go with November is tied to SIP development & emission budget status.
 - Until 11/06 the new EMFAC remains in development & is not publicly available.
 - ARB is also committing to a 3-year update cycle starting w/11/06 (next 2010, then 2013).
 - November release uses a 2005 fleet. It will include the latest activity estimates. Will transmit to EPA in early 2007 with a May07 cutoff – must use for all conformity analyses after that. Expect approval in July07.

- 11/06 will be release of fleet data; providing 6mo transition because MPOs can't update EMFAC on their own by MPOs. ARB will complete release of EMFAC with new fleet data during the 6 month transition period.
- Starting a new conformity analysis locks in Latest Planning Assumptions at that time. Start using new EMFAC after May07, but conformity determinations with it can't go to FHWA until it's approved by EPA in July.
- Question: will there be any version of EMFAC2002 w/new fleet? ARB: In Nov06 will release NEW EMFAC w/new fleet. No old version w/new fleet.
- Question: how different is the fleet data? Order of magnitude? ARB: significant change but not as big as E02. Technical memos will be on ARB web site regarding model development; some info on changes.
- Question: will there be another workshop? None scheduled at present.
- Question: use for project-level/microscale analysis – changes? ARB: Will now accept cut/paste of data blocks in WIS.
- Other: ARB restricted on what can be done by Nov. Will not handle in this version: toxics, facility-specific emission factors.
- MOVES Meeting in El Monte – EPA/OTAQ, ARB – everybody was there (Board, management, staff). Outcome:
 - Change would not be a short-term exercise. ARB interested in MOVES but won't change soon. EPA won't release until at least 09.
 - Short-term: EPA to do a MOVES presentation last week March at SANDAG.
 - Direction not clear whether future might be a MOVES for California or an EMFAC/MOVES combination? MOVES doesn't handle I/M in a way useful in CA. One focus is what would be needed (and \$\$) to do a "CALMOVES" w/same structure as EPA but covering our needs.
 - EPA: MOVES web site has been under development for a long time; has schedule for parts (MOBILE+NONROAD+TOXICS+GRNHSE) staged for release at various times in 07-08. Nonroad portion scheduled for release in 09.

1:45 Caltrans Updates

- CO Protocol update
 - Nothing new
- PM10/2.5 Hot Spot Analysis
 - Still waiting for EPA PM2.5 rule/guidance.
- PM10 guidelines – use UCD guides or old ones? Don't use old (2000) CT Interim. 2005 guidance at FHWA Resource Center web site.
- RTP Guidelines/Handbook – when releasing? Soon...

- Upcoming one-day TCM Workshop at UCD: will be a working group; exchange lessons learned, what to do differently, best way to do TCMs in a SIP without creating unnecessary conformity problems. Save the date: 2/27/2006

2:15 Status of Transportation and Air Quality Planning in California

- Near Term Air Quality Plans – Area Representatives
 - Ventura – doing 8 hr ozone Emission Inventory. Wondering about TCMs and RACM analysis – can't make workshop but will submit questions. Looking @South Coast now re plan development.
 - SJV: waiting for preliminary modeling – joint workshop early 06 – timeline shortly for 8 hr ozone. PM10: will have new budgets soon.
 - South Coast: awaiting socioeconomic data from SCAG. Doing retreat this month to consider control measures.
 - BAAQMD: adopted O3/2005 on Jan4 (State plan only). Looking toward doing 8hr ozone SIP as Marginal area. Need more clarity regarding what has to be submitted. Emission inventory by June but not full-blown plan. In contact w/EPA.
 - SacAQMD: adopted 8 hr ozone ROP SIP at last mtg – now at ARB/EPA. Working on concept paper for possible ISR like SJV's.
 - San Diego: similar to Ventura. Big concern is: ARB – when will Southern Cal coordination meetings happen again w/all Districts not just South Coast? When will modeling inventories w/new EMFAC be available to plan timing of modeling effort? ARB: South Coast is doing all the modeling ... except San Diego?) Can't wait on EMFAC 'til November for inventories!
- RTP and TIP Updates and Amendments – Area Representatives
 - MTC: preparing 07TIP update – will release TIP & conformity mid-May; to Commission late July. Advance planning for 09 RTP.
 - SCAG: Regional Council approved PM2.5 finding & TCM substitution for Centerline.
 - SJV: PM2.5conformity – all MPOs have had hearings – no significant comments – 8 individual adoptions this month. TIP process, draft schedule, same process as 2.5 – each conformity analysis must include all others. 07 RTP – some discussion of acceleration to address 7/1/07 lockdown issue due to SAFETEA-LU planning requirements.
 - SANDAG: technical update of RTP in late Feb – 06 TIP in June – SAFETEA-LU update for June07.
 - Go-California:
 - Comment: Go California is outside the STIP process, but projects clearly affect RTPs – bifurcated issues.
 - MPO comment: funding would probably be similar to TCRP (earmark); bond would go June or November – language currently

doesn't include project list – still some uncertainty – FTIP not affected but RTPs may be.

- Mark Brucker: SJV hearings held but adoption later – which conformity test? < Baseline – each MPO and whole area. SCAG: did < Baseline for both 24hr and annual.
- Jonathan/SCAG: RTP in 08: anybody else doing this?
- “Restripe California” – DON'T CALL IT THIS ANY MORE! Will have some conformity issues: HOV lane conversions – possible TCM substitution. Auxiliary and other lanes also an issue.

3:00 Information sharing

- TRB Conference Summary - Doug Eisinger
 - Now over 10k attendees! Highlights...
 - STAPPA/ALAPCO publishing PM2.5 mitigation options handbook – just in time for hot spot analysis requirement. Atlanta has a project looking at HDDV controls – white papers coming out – contact Rob Goodwin @ARC. MSAT NPRM out soon (2/28). Criteria pollutant version of MOVES coming out this summer.
 - TCMs committee: linking to MSAT reductions. Research area also includes how to evaluate CMAQ project benefits, improve frameworks, evaluate HOT lanes.
 - LADCO soon to release review of 15 mobile source controls – part of RACM/SIP development. Looked @70 candidates; ended up w/15. Whitepapers soon.
 - Good news/Bad news: diesel – C. J. Broderick (UCD now in Virginia) – reporting surveys re owner/operator idling reduction. Bad news: 25% men/22% women said air quality is a problem. (That's all! More than ¾ said air quality is NOT a concern). Good news: dump truck modal emission studies ... 50% idle time but only 5% total emissions from that. So is idling actually not big contributor to diesel exhaust pollution?

3:30 Adjournment

- Next meeting June at SANDAG

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The latest meeting information, and handouts that are available before the meeting, can be found at the Statewide Conformity Working Group web site:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/air/State_CWG/CWGindex.htm

Attendance Lists

Main Meeting Site (Sacramento)

Leigh Levine

FHWA

Sam Kaur

Bruce Abanathe

StanCOG

StanCOG

Sally Rodeman Caltrans Dist. 10
Peter Christensen Sac. Metro. AQMD
Ben Cacatian Ventura Co. APCD
Susan Wilson Caltrans Dist. 3
Rachel Kennedy SANDAG
Elisa Arias SANDAG
Sandy Johnson Caltrans Dist. 11
Mike Brady Caltrans HQ
David Ipps Caltrans HQ
Douglas Ito San Joaquin COG
Cari Anderson CAC/SJV COGs
Tom Kear UC Davis
Eyvonne Sells South Coast AQMD
Karina O'Connor US EPA
Dennis Wade Air Resources Bd.
David Young SACOG
Jean Mazur FHWA
Steve Luxenburg FHWA
David Calkins Sierra Nevada Air
Sam Longmire N. Sierra AQMD
Penny Gray Caltrans HQ
Lauren Dawson SJVAPCD
Harold Brazil MTC
Dick Fahey Caltrans Dist. 4
EPA Region IX (San Francisco)
John Kelly US EPA

Rebecca Rosen US EPA
Mark Brucker LUPAC
David Schonbrun TRANSDEF
MTC (Oakland)
Ashley Nguyen MTC
Bay Area AQMD (San Francisco)
Suzanne Bourgingnon BAAQMD
Caltrans District 6 (Fresno)
Mac Cavalli Caltrans Dist. 6
Kern COG (Bakersfield)
Rob Ball Kern COG
Caltrans District 7 (Los Angeles)
Leann Williams Caltrans Dist. 7
SCAG (Los Angeles)
Jonathan Nadler SCAG
Caltrans District 8 (San Bernardino)
Paul Fagan Caltrans Dist. 8
San Diego Co. APCD (San Diego)
Carl Selnick San Diego APCD
Other
Doug Eisinger Sonoma Technologies/UCD